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Docket No. RUC-100DFDXC2  
Serial No. 09/725,828In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (currently amended). A wound irrigation device comprising a reservoir housing, containing a sterile wound irrigation solution, and a discharge means, wherein said wherein said wound irrigation device comprises a discharge means that is removably attached to said reservoir housing, such that said discharge means directs a pressurized stream of said wound irrigation solution when said reservoir housing is pressurized, wherein said reservoir housing is made of a resilient compressible material and wherein said discharge means comprises a plurality of ports through which said sterile wound irrigation solution passes when the reservoir housing is compressed.

2 (cancel).

3 (cancel).

4 (currently amended). The wound irrigation device according to claim 3~~1~~, wherein said plurality of ports discharge a plurality of pressurized streams of the wound irrigation solution at an angle, such that said pressurized streams intersect over a center of said discharge means.

5 (currently amended). The wound irrigation device according to claim 3~~1~~, wherein said discharge means comprises four ports.

6 (original). The wound irrigation device according to claim 5, wherein each of said ports has a diameter of about 0.1 cm (0.04) inches.

7-11 (cancel).

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12 (original). The wound irrigation device according to claim 1, further comprising a splash guard.

13 (original). The wound irrigation device according to claim 12, wherein said splash guard is hemi-spherical.

14 (original). The wound irrigation device according to claim 13, wherein said splash guard comprises a removable protective cap.

15 (cancel).

16-23 (cancel).

24 (withdrawn). A method for irrigating a wound, said method comprising the following steps:

(a) providing a sterile wound-irrigation solution in a compressible or pressurized reservoir housing having a discharge means comprising at least one port therethrough wherein said port forms a nozzle for directing a pressurized stream of said solution, and wherein the shape and configuration of said port, or ports, results in a dispersed stream of said solution;

(b) directing the discharge means and reservoir housing so as to discharge the wound-irrigation solution toward said wound; and

(c) discharging said wound-irrigation solution from said reservoir housing and through said port, or ports, to produce a dispersed stream of said wound-irrigation solution directed at said wound, wherein said dispersed stream is applied with sufficient force to dislodge contaminants, thereby effectively irrigating said wound.

25 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said wound-irrigation solution is discharged from said port, or ports, at a pressure between about 4 PSI and about 20 PSI.

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26 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said discharge means has a plurality of ports.

27 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein the diameter of said circular apertures is between that of a 10 gauge hypodermic needle and a 30 gauge hypodermic needle.

28 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein the diameter of said circular apertures is between that of a 16 gauge hypodermic needle and a 25 gauge hypodermic needle.

29 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said ports are circular apertures with a diameter of less than about 1/8 inch.

30 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said circular apertures are conical in shape through said aperture.

31 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said discharge means comprises at least one elongated port.

32 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said discharge means is detachably engaged to said reservoir housing.

33 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 24, wherein said discharge means comprises a protective shield.

34 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 31, wherein said protective shield is detachable.

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